

**Spanish Presidency of the European Union****OSCE Permanent Council No. 808  
Vienna, 6 May 2010****EU statement on the railway shipment dispute between  
Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**

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The EU listened carefully to the statements made by the delegations of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan at the meeting of the Permanent Council on 22 April. The EU is becoming increasingly concerned that the governments of the two countries have not yet been able to engage constructively on this matter.

We regret very much that there has been little progress in the bilateral efforts to date in resolving this dispute, and note that one of the parties has appealed to the OSCE to take appropriate early warning and conflict prevention measures. Given its potential impact on transport flows in the region, in particular as regards Afghanistan, the EU does not consider this to be a purely bilateral matter. For this reason, the EU expressed its concern bilaterally to both delegations at last week's EU / Central Asia Ministerial Meeting in Brussels.

This particular dispute is not an isolated case. The EU is aware of serious concerns by each of the two countries about the policies

of the other in a number of fields including energy, water and transportation.

In accordance with the OSCE's comprehensive security concept, its early warning and conflict prevention functions, and its role as a regional security organisation, the EU believes we urgently need to examine the options for an active OSCE role in helping to resolve this dispute. To that end, we encourage the Chairmanship to consult both sides and to draw upon all the relevant expertise, including technical expertise, at its disposal.

In the meantime the EU encourages both sides to refrain from any further actions that may exacerbate tensions, to keep all channels of communications open and to work closely with the OSCE field missions and representatives of other international organisations on the ground, including the UN. We hope the meeting of the Tajikistan-Uzbekistan Interstate Commission, which took place on 27 April, constitutes a first step in that direction. The EU stands ready to assist both governments in this regard.

Los países candidatos CROACIA\* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA\*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA y NORUEGA, al igual que la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA se suman a esta declaración.

\*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.